

SECTION 2.3.9

GREENWOOD CREEK WATERSHED

This section is under construction, but contains some pertinent information.

We will expand the descriptions in the future.

Greenwood Creek is located in Mendocino County in California. It was considered for the 303-(d) lists but was ultimately not proposed for listing. This watershed is still a priority watershed because of the Steelhead and Coho placed on the ESA List.

The creek itself supports many beneficial uses of water, including municipal supplies to the town of Elk, cold water and migratory/spawning habitat for anadromous fisheries (Coho salmon and steelhead), wildlife habitat, recreation, and agriculture.

MANAGEMENT AREA DESCRIPTION

Greenwood Creek Watershed, approximately 16,000 acres in area, is located on the southern Mendocino Coast between the town of Elk and Philo and between Greenwood Ridge (north), Clift Ridge (south) and Signal Ridge (east). Most of the coastal watershed is privately owned, with 60% owned by Louisiana Pacific Corporation as TPZ land, and the rest owned by approximately 50 smaller landowners. The only public land in or adjacent to Greenwood Creek is Greenwood State Beach, which contains the Greenwood Creek estuary, and a very small parcel owned by Elk County Water District. The watershed is used primarily for timber production, viticulture, fruit orchards, residences and limited cattle ranching. Greenwood Creek, a Class I coastal stream, flows 16 miles from its headwaters high in the watershed, downstream into the Pacific Ocean at the town of Elk. (Greenwood Creek Road Survey)

INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

The Water Quality Control Plan for the North Coast Region (Basin Plan) contains specific water quality objectives and implementation programs to protect and enhance identified beneficial uses of water. The over-arching regulatory provision of the Basin Plan is the Action Plan for Logging, Construction and Associated Activities and the Nonpoint Source Action Plan.

The North Coast Watershed Assessment Program (NCWAP) will move into this watershed in FY 2002-03 as part of the coastal streams south of the Mattole River watershed.

Summary of Activities:

“Greenwood Creek Watershed Project 1996 Road Survey Summary Report” and “Greenwood Creek Stream Survey Data Analysis and Recommendations.”

Nonpoint Source:

Continued involvement in forestry, grazing and county road issues is necessary to ensure protection of aquatic resources. The recent listing of coho salmon as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act has put the spotlight on all land use activities that potentially may increase sedimentation or otherwise affect habitat.

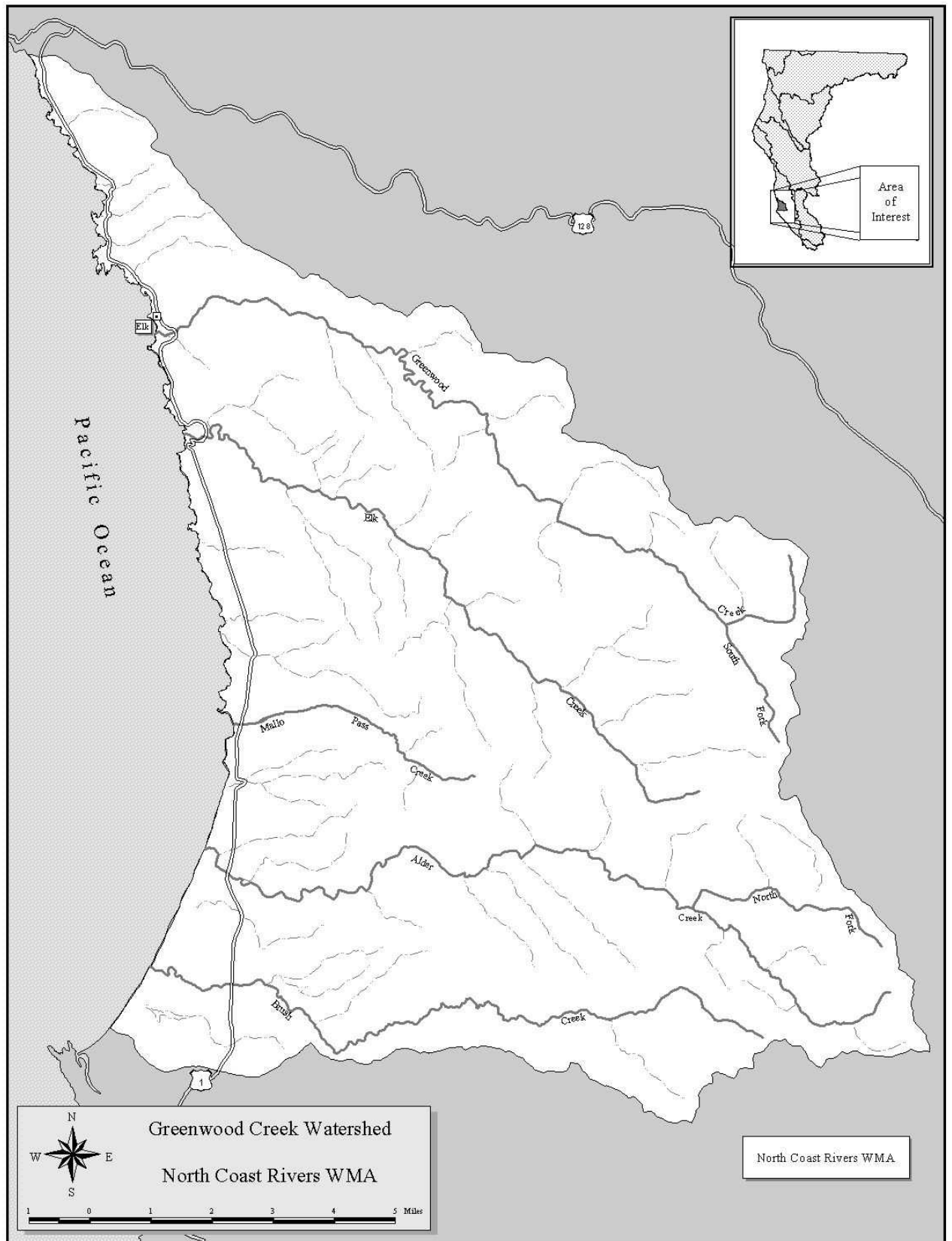


Figure 2.3.9.1. Greenwood Creek Watershed